



Dear De La Salle Academy Community,

In the second year of our three-year Strategic Plan: TRANSFORM, we are thrilled to share with you the progress we've made. We continue to build upon critical initiatives and remain focused on making the School even stronger, one that continues to empower our students to achieve their highest potential while making a positive impact on the world around them.



I want to thank each of you, our students, families, alums, current and former faculty and staff, and supporters, for your continued engagement and commitment to DLSA. Your unwavering support and partnership has a meaningful impact as we enhance the experience for our students, their families, and alums. The continued progress we've made in our second year of TRANSFORM reflects the strength of our community and the shared vision we are all working toward. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AR Gonzalez".

Angel Rubiel Gonzalez, Ph.D. '99
Head of School

NOTE: Below please also find further details of a few highlights since my [last update](#) distributed in February 2024.



DLSA Strategic Plan Update 2025

Year Two Progress: Strategic Plan Milestones and Key Initiatives

February 2025

Student and Community Well-Being

One of our core goals is to foster an environment where our students' identities and well-being are prioritized. This year we launched a physical education curriculum, offering students engaging and comprehensive fitness opportunities which aligns with our goal to support holistic development; options include Judo, basketball, soccer, track, and rugby. We continue to prioritize mental health by expanding our support groups, providing students with spaces for reflection, discussion, and connection with their peers. We have engaged a Learning Support Coordinator and have added a support group dedicated to executive functioning with the aim of destigmatizing learning supports.

Strategic Partnerships

We believe in the power of collaboration, and thus we are increasing partnerships with community, city, business, non-profit, and university organizations to strengthen our curriculum and expose our students to a wider variety of learning opportunities. We identify and strengthen partnerships that enhance our programming, working to formalize exciting opportunities for collaboration. This includes: Anselmo Academy of Music and The Arts, Atlantic Theater Company, Catapult Learning, CUNY Hunter College, Facing History & Ourselves, Google, NationSwell, New Victory Theater, the New York Public Library, Rookly Chess, and ScholarStem.

Internal and External Communications

Effective communication is vital as we share our story. To that end, we have established more efficient, streamlined, and centralized internal and external communication channels, ensuring transparency and stronger alignment across departments. This includes: a quarterly community newsletter; a twice yearly DLSA alum communication (and as needed as opportunities arise); a bi-weekly family newsletter; and a weekly faculty digest. We launched internal committees dedicated to improving our school's branding and enhancing our stewardship and cultivation strategy. We continue to identify and refine success metrics, including post-DLSA trajectories (education, professions, and areas of interest), so that we can enrich alum engagement and tell the story of how DLSA prepares students for success well beyond their middle school years.



Student Leadership

A hallmark of our mission is to nurture our students so that they excel academically and also embody a deep commitment to leadership. We've created new leadership positions for students, encouraging them to take active roles in shaping the school community. We empower students to take active roles in our weekly Community Meetings and other school events as well as tour guides for visitors. To ensure that our students' voices are heard, we administer quarterly school-wide culture and climate surveys, gathering valuable feedback that will inform future decisions and initiatives.

Financial Health and Sustainability

We have made strategic decisions to ensure the long-term financial stability of De La Salle Academy. We have implemented modified structures including: account management efficiency; a robust budgeting and forecasting process; a more methodical tuition and financial aid management process; a Real Estate Task Force overseen by our Facilities Committee; key investments in our Advancement Office; and a Benefits and Compensation Task Force to ensure we maintain our position as a competitive workplace.

DLSA Mission Statement

As part of our ongoing growth, with the full Leadership Team, faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees, we are revising our mission statement to ensure it aligns with both our current work and our vision for the future. We will continue the evolution of our Mission Statement with the broader community, including student, parent/guardian and alum feedback. The process, led by Nicole Furlonge, Klingenstein Family Chair Professor of Practice in Education and Executive Director of Klingenstein Center, will help clarify and strengthen our commitment to providing a transformative educational experience for all students.